

April 2, 1992

LB 78

SENATOR BOHLKE: Okay. Well...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time. Time.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Okay, thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. I would like to introduce some guests before we go on and they are guests of Senator Bohlke. We have some students from Hastings High School in Hastings and their teacher and they are in the south balcony. Would you folks please stand and be welcomed by the Legislature. Thank you for being with us. The next speaker is Senator Rasmussen.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I rise in support of both the Bernard-Stevens amendment as well as Senator Hillman's amendment. I want to thank Senator Bernard-Stevens for bringing this resolution. There will be those that will accuse him and others of us of putting this in as an effort to sabotage LB 78 and that is not my intent at all. I think it is a very realistic act in view of the court case pending which will determine at the Supreme Court level whether or not this is a constitutional act. It also reflects my genuine desire to move us in a different direction as we debate this issue regarding abortion and that is to move us away from this divisive battle about the legal status of abortion and move us towards addressing those issues, those circumstances that lead women to seek abortions. Senator Lindsay said that, that...I forgot what you said, Senator Lindsay, I'm sorry. I want to talk very...I know what I was going to say, that Senator Lindsay suggested that perhaps we would not be talking about the key elements of LB 78 and I want to assure him that I fully intend to talk about the 24-hour waiting period and the requirement that information be given to women regarding the anatomical and physiological status of the fetus and I want to talk about those extensively, Senator Lindsay, because of the underlying presumptions that I think are there regarding women and why this bill was written in the first place. But I think that the resolution is extremely reasonable in light of the court cases that have gone on before us as well as the court case that is pending in the Supreme Court. In 1982, the Women's Services P.C. v. Thone the court struck down a 48-hour waiting period and I quote, "the interests of the state in having women who seek abortions make a thoughtful decision after receiving certain